

1. A video system comprising:

a network interface configured to receive a network signal from a communication network wherein the network signal includes video;

a memory configured to store the video from the network signal;

5 a video interface configured to transfer a video signal to a video display wherein the video signal includes the video from the memory; and

a processing system configured to determine when to initiate the transfer of the video signal from the video interface based on: a video display rate, a network transfer rate, a first amount of the video in the memory, a second amount of the video to be 10 subsequently received in the network signal, and a user selection, and wherein the network transfer rate is slower than the video display rate.

2. The video system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is configured to determine the network transfer rate based on an initial amount of the video received in the network 15 signal and a time period to receive the initial amount of the video.

3. The video system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is configured to determine a first time period based on the video display rate times the first amount, to determine a second time period based on the network transfer rate times the second amount, and to 20 initiate the transfer of the video signal when the first time period is equal to the second time period.

4. The video system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is configured to determine a first time period based on the video display rate times the first amount, to determine a second time period based on the network transfer rate times the second amount, and to initiate the transfer of the video signal when the first time period is greater than the

5 second time period.

5. The video system of claim 1 wherein the first amount of the video in the memory includes a previously received and displayed portion of the video.

10 6. The video system of claim 5 wherein the processing system is configured, prior to the user instruction, to determine the first amount and direct the video system to store in the memory at least the first amount of the video previously received and displayed, so upon the user selection, the video can be immediately and continuously viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

15 7. The video system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is configured to initiate the transfer of the video signal when the video can be continuously viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

20 8. The video system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is configured to initiate the transfer of the video signal when the video can be viewed to completion with one intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

9. The video system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is configured to initiate the transfer of the video signal when a user-selected portion of the video can be viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

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10. The video system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is configured to transfer a menu signal to the video display to display a user selection menu.

11. The video system of claim 10 wherein the user selection menu indicates a plurality of 10 available videos for viewing on-demand and the user selection selects the video from the available videos.

12. The video system of claim 11 wherein the user selection menu indicates a plurality of 15 available video display rates and the user selection selects the video display rate from the available video display rates.

13. The video system of claim 11 wherein the user selection menu indicates a time remaining before the transfer of the video signal will initiate.

20 14. The video system of claim 11 wherein the user selection menu provides a notice when the transfer of the video signal is initiating

15. The video system of claim 1 wherein the video signal is configured as a channel for a satellite system video decoder.

16. A method of operating a video system, the method comprising:

receiving a network signal from a communication network wherein the network signal includes video;

storing the video from the network signal in a memory;

5 determining when to initiate transfer of a video signal including the video from the memory based on: a video display rate, a network transfer rate, a first amount of the video in the memory, a second amount of the video to be subsequently received in the network signal, and a user selection, and wherein the network transfer rate is slower than the video display rate; and

10 transferring the video signal to a video display in response to determining when to initiate the transfer.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising determining the network transfer rate

based on an initial amount of the video received in the network signal and a time period 15 to receive the initial amount of the video.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein determining when to initiate the transfer comprises

determining a first time period based on the video display rate times the first amount,

determining a second time period based on the network transfer rate times the second

20 amount, and initiating the transfer of the video signal when the first time period is equal to the second time period.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein determining when to initiate the transfer comprises determining a first time period based on the video display rate times the first amount, determining a second time period based on the network transfer rate times the second amount, and initiating the transfer of the video signal when the first time period is greater than the second time period.

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20. The method of claim 16 wherein the first amount of the video in the memory includes a previously received and displayed portion of the video.

10 21. The method of claim 20 further comprising, prior to the user instruction, determining the first amount and storing in the memory at least the first amount of the video previously received and displayed, so upon the user selection, the video can be immediately and continuously viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

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22. The method of claim 16 wherein determining when to initiate the transfer comprises determining when the video can be continuously viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

20 23. The method of claim 16 wherein determining when to initiate the transfer comprises determining when the video can be viewed to completion with one intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

24. The method of claim 16 wherein determining when to initiate the transfer comprises determining when a user-selected portion of the video can be viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

5 25. The video system of claim 1 further comprising transferring a menu signal to the video display to display a user selection menu.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the user selection menu indicates a plurality of available videos for viewing on-demand and the user selection selects the video from the 10 available videos.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the user selection menu indicates a plurality of available video display rates and the user selection selects the video display rate from the available video display rates.

15 28. The method of claim 26 wherein the user selection menu indicates a time remaining before the transfer of the video signal will initiate.

29. The method of claim 26 wherein the user selection menu provides a notice when the 20 transfer of the video signal is initiating

30. The method of claim 16 wherein transferring the video signal comprises configuring the video signal as a channel for a satellite system video decoder.

31. A software product for a video system comprising a processing system, a network interface that receives a network signal from a communication network wherein the network signal includes video, a memory that stores the video from the network signal, a video interface that transfers a video signal to a video display wherein the video signal

5 includes the video from the memory, the software product comprising:

application software configured to direct the processing system to determine when to initiate the transfer of the video signal from the video interface based on: a video display rate, a network transfer rate, a first amount of the video in the memory, a second amount of the video to be subsequently received in the network signal, and a user selection, and wherein the network transfer rate is slower than the video display rate; and

10 the memory that stores the application software.

32. The software product of claim 31 wherein the application software directs the

processing system to determine the network transfer rate based on an initial amount of the video received in the network signal and a time period to receive the initial amount of the video.

33. The software product of claim 31 wherein the application software directs the

processing system to determine a first time period based on the video display rate times the first amount, to determine a second time period based on the network transfer rate times the second amount, and to initiate the transfer of the video signal when the first time period is equal to the second time period.

34. The software product of claim 31 wherein the application software directs the processing system to determine a first time period based on the video display rate times the first amount, to determine a second time period based on the network transfer rate times the second amount, and to initiate the transfer of the video signal when the first 5 time period is greater than the second time period.

35. The software product of claim 31 wherein the first amount of the video in the memory includes a previously received and displayed portion of the video.

10 36. The software product of claim 35 wherein the application software directs the processing system, prior to the user instruction, to determine the first amount and direct the video system to store in the memory at least the first amount of the video previously received and displayed, so upon the user selection, the video can be immediately and continuously viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is 15 received in the network signal.

20 37. The software product of claim 31 wherein the application software directs the processing system to initiate the transfer of the video signal when the video can be continuously viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

38. The software product of claim 31 wherein the application software directs the processing system to initiate the transfer of the video signal when the video can be

viewed to completion with one intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

39. The software product of claim 31 wherein the application software directs the

5 processing system to initiate the transfer of the video signal when a user-selected portion of the video can be viewed to completion without intermission and before all of the video is received in the network signal.

40. The software product of claim 31 wherein the application software directs the

10 processing system to transfer a menu signal to the video display to display a user selection menu.

41. The software product of claim 40 wherein the user selection menu indicates a

15 plurality of available videos for viewing on-demand and the user selection selects the video from the available videos.

42. The software product of claim 40 wherein the user selection menu indicates a

plurality of available video display rates and the user selection selects the video display rate from the available video display rates.

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43. The software product of claim 40 wherein the user selection menu indicates a time remaining before the transfer of the video signal will initiate.

44. The software product of claim 40 wherein the user selection menu provides a notice
when the transfer of the video signal is initiating

45. The software product of claim 31 wherein the video signal is configured as a channel

5 for a satellite system video decoder.